

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

NORTEK AIR SOLUTIONS, LLC,
 Plaintiff,
 v.
 DMG CORPORATION, et al.,
 Defendants.

Case No. [14-cv-02919-BLF](#)

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S
 ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION TO FILE
 UNDER SEAL STIPULATION BY THE
 PARTIES REGARDING DISCOVERY
 DISPUTE JOINT REPORT NO. 7**

[Re: ECF 164]

Before the Court is Plaintiff's Administrative Motion to File Under Seal portions of the Stipulation Regarding Discovery Dispute Joint Report No. 7. ECF 164. The redacted portions of the Stipulation Regarding Discovery Dispute Joint Report No. 7 relate to the financial information of Defendant which has been designated by Defendant as "Confidential" under the Protective Order entered in this matter. *Id.* at 2.

I. LEGAL STANDARD

There is a "strong presumption in favor of access" to judicial records. *Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting *Foltz v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 331 F.3d 1122, 1135 (9th Cir. 2003)). A party seeking to seal judicial records bears the burden of overcoming this presumption by articulating "compelling reasons supported by specific factual findings that outweigh the general history of access and the public policies favoring disclosure." *Id.* at 1178-79. Compelling reasons for sealing court files generally exist when such "court files might have become a vehicle for improper purposes," such as the use of records to gratify private spite, promote public scandal, circulate libelous statements, or release trade secrets." *Id.* (quoting *Nixon v. Warner Commc'ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 598 (1978)). However, "[t]he mere fact that the production of records may lead to a litigant's embarrassment,

1 incrimination, or exposure to further litigation will not, without more, compel the court to seal its
2 records.” *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1179. Ultimately, “[w]hat constitutes a ‘compelling reason’ is
3 ‘best left to the sound discretion of the trial court.” *Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC*,
4 809 F.3d 1092, 1097 (9th Cir. 2016).

5 “Despite this strong preference for public access, [the Ninth Circuit has] carved out an
6 exception,” *id.* at 1097, for judicial records attached to motions that are “tangentially related to the
7 merits of a case,” *id.* at 1101. Parties moving to seal such records need only make a
8 “particularized showing” under the “good cause” standard of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
9 26(c). *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1180 (quoting *Foltz*, 331 F.3d at 1138).

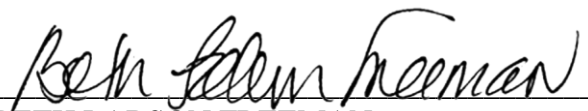
10 In this District, parties seeking to seal judicial records must furthermore follow Civil Local
11 Rule 79-5, which requires, *inter alia*, that a sealing request be “*narrowly tailored* to seek sealing
12 *only* of sealable material.” Civil L.R. 79-5(b) (emphasis added). Where the submitting party
13 seeks to file under seal a document designated confidential by another party, the burden of
14 articulating compelling reasons for sealing is placed on the designating party. *Id.* 79-5(e).

15 II. DISCUSSION

16 Plaintiff moves to seal portions of the Stipulation Regarding Discovery Dispute Joint
17 Report No. 7 that relate to the financial information of Defendant. ECF 191 at 1. This
18 information has been designated confidential by Defendant. *Id.* As the designating party,
19 Defendant filed a declaration indicating that this material discloses sensitive financial information
20 held as a trade secret which could cause competitive injury if made public. Brown Decl. at ¶¶ 5-7,
21 ECF 167. The Court finds the sealing request to be narrowly tailored. Accordingly, the Court
22 GRANTS Plaintiff’s motion to seal.

23 IT IS SO ORDERED.

24 Dated: June 2, 2016

25 
26 BETH LABSON FREEMAN
27 United States District Judge
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